

Over the years, through much effort, mutual support and abiding faith, the Wyatts continued to build their church and, as the size of their congregation grew so, too, did the location of the church. Finally, after much prayer and perseverance, the present worship facility was erected. Today, this multi-million dollar complex, with a membership of more than 1,000, stands as a monument to the faith, hope and vision of a people who not only had a mind to build but an unshakable determination to do great things to honor God and to serve His people here on Earth.

Rev. Wyatt's accomplishments are legendary and could fill an entire CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. But of all the things I could say, on behalf of my beloved wife, Carolyn, my family and, indeed, a grateful nation, I salute the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Claude S. Wyatt, Jr. His was a life well lived, indeed.

HONORING REV. CURTIS B.
ALEXANDER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, as you know, thousands of Americans were affected by Hurricane Rita. Many lost their homes and the cherished memories inside them. While devastation tore throughout much of the coast of Texas, there were some brave, hard-working citizens who tirelessly helped their neighbors.

Jefferson County Habitat for Humanity organized more than 3,000 volunteers over the course of three years. They built 50 houses during this time, which is an increased rate of four times the number of houses they typically are capable of building.

Habitat 2010 Board President Rev. Curtis B. Alexander of Beaumont, Texas and Executive Director Uliana Trylowsky worked with many volunteers, including faith-based organizations, prison partnerships, and others in the community that wished to put their hands to good use.

On January 22, 2010 these two selfless individuals represented Jefferson County Habitat for Humanity in receiving the Audrey Nelson Community Development Achievement Award from the National Community Development Association at their winter meeting in Washington D.C.

We applaud the leadership of Rev. Alexander and Ms. Trylowsky in organizing volunteers to build houses for their neighbors in Jefferson County after Hurricane Rita. The efforts of the countless Americans that volunteered their time after this disaster have been noticed. We praise and thank the generosity of those who have labored for their fellow neighbors.

HONORING BOB GRIP, ALABAMA'S
BEST TV NEWS ANCHOR FOR 2010

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate my friend Bob Grip for recently

receiving the award of Best TV News Anchor in Alabama. A trusted name in South Alabama for a quarter century, Bob is primary news anchor for WALA-TV FOX10 in Mobile.

On March 20, 2010, Bob Grip was named the 2010 Best TV News Anchor in the State of Alabama by the Alabama Broadcasters' Association. This was his third such award.

Mr. Grip's exemplary reporting has also recently earned him honors for "Best In-Depth Reporting" and "Best Community Service" by the Mobile Press Club.

Bob has also been honored for producing "Fox 10 News Fugitive Files," winner of the 2002 "Best Series" award from the Alabama Associated Press Broadcasters Association. Due to this program's success, he was spotlighted in 1996 by FBI Director Louis Freeh with the "Director's Community Leadership Award." "Fugitive Files" has helped capture more than 400 suspects.

In 1988, Bob traveled to the Vatican to produce a half hour documentary on Mobile Archbishop Oscar Lipscomb's visit with Pope John Paul II. Bob also brought Fox 10 News viewers reports from Europe following the death of Pope John Paul.

During 1993, Bob flew to Kuwait to present a series of live and taped reports on Operation Desert Peace, a trip designed to honor the families of those who died in the first Persian Gulf War.

Bob Grip is a cum laude graduate of Boston College, where he earned bachelor's degrees in Communications and Secondary Education. He also received a Master's degree in Journalism from The Ohio State University, where he was also a Teaching Associate in the School of Journalism.

In his spare time, he also teaches Broadcast Journalism at Spring Hill College in Mobile, and is constantly volunteering his time and tremendous talents to a number of worthwhile causes. On behalf of the people of South Alabama, I thank Bob Grip for his dedication to his profession of informing the public, and I congratulate him on his many achievements and send best wishes to his family, including his wife, Marie, and their two daughters Erin and Mary Kate, and their families.

TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE ACT OF
2010

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, across the United States, April 15th is Tax Day. As Americans file their taxes, H.R. 4994, the Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010, improves taxpayer programs and protections. The "Tax Day" bill has a history of broad bi-partisan support and continues to receive large support today.

Most importantly for the residents of the 7th District of Illinois and the Nation, the Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010 includes programs that benefit low-income taxpayers. For example, H.R. 4994 increases funding for grants to provide low-income taxpayer clinics. Even in the absence of a specific appropriation, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program will be available for use because the Secretary of the

Treasury could allocate up to \$20 million of grant funding annually for the program. As recommended by the National Taxpayer Advocate, the bill allows IRS employees to refer people to these tax clinics as well. The Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010 also improves the IRS's ability to inform taxpayers about the availability of the Earned Income Tax Credit in prior years, a tax credit that we know helps low-income households. In the 7th Congressional District alone, over 72,000 people participated in this program in 2007 with a savings of over \$172 million, with most of those taxpayers earning less than \$20,000 a year.

Further, the bill makes it easier for taxpayers to settle outstanding payments via the offers-in-compromise program. Importantly, H.R. 4994 contains provisions to assure the protection of taxpayers, such as requiring the IRS to notify taxpayers when it suspects that a taxpayer's identity, or a dependent's identity, has been stolen. Each of the bill's provisions provides timely assistance and improvements for taxpayers.

The Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010 also adapts the tax system to technology in several ways. By allowing the removal of cell phones from listed property, the bill eliminates a strict, outdated rule. The current rule requires individuals to keep detailed records regarding cell phones and similar equipment used for business purposes, imposing unnecessary burdens on companies and taxpayers. The IRS also will be given the opportunity to utilize the internet and other forms of mass communication to notify taxpayers of "unclaimed" or "undeliverable" funds.

Overall H.R. 4994 the Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010 continues the tradition of the "Tax Day" bill by providing needed programs, protection to our taxpayers, and updates to outdated rules.

NEGLECTING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to share with our colleagues an editorial from the April 9 Scranton Times Tribune urging the Obama administration to name an Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, as required by the International Religious Freedom Act, which was passed by Congress in 1998. The editorial rightly points out that the portfolio of this ambassador is "fundamental to American ideals. . . ."

The absence of a consistent voice dedicated to the pursuit of religious freedom both within the State Department and globally in our interactions with foreign governments is deeply concerning. America must speak out for those around the world whose most basic freedoms are being trampled.

[From the Times-Tribune, Apr. 9, 2010]

NAME, ELEVATE AMBASSADOR

More than a year into office, President Barack Obama has yet to name a key diplomat with a portfolio that is fundamental to American ideals, international human rights and U.S. law.

The Religious Freedom Act of 1998, for good reason, requires the appointment of an ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom.